

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising ~~[DNA-sequence selected from the group consisting of]~~:

- (a) nucleotides 1202 through 1543 of Figure 2;
- (b) nucleotide 1252 through 1543 of Figure 2;
- (c) nucleotides encoding amino acids 283 through 396 of Figure 2; or
- (d) nucleotides encoding amino acids 299 through 396 of Figure 2;
- (e) naturally occurring allelic variants of (a) through (d).

25. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide ~~[DNA sequence]~~ comprising nucleotides 1202 through 1543 of Figure 2.

26. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide ~~[DNA sequence]~~ comprising nucleotides 1252 through 1543 of Figure 2.

27-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide ~~[DNA sequence]~~ comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 283 through 396 of Figure 2.

30. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide ~~[DNA sequence]~~ comprising nucleotides encoding amino acids 299 through 396 of Figure 2.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide [DNA-sequence] that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a [DNA] polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide of claim 24 [sequence comprising nucleotides 1252 to 1543 of Figure 2 under stringent hybridization conditions], wherein said isolated polynucleotide [DNA-sequence] encodes a [~~bone morphogenetic~~] protein characterized by the ability to induce the formation of cartilage and/or bone tissue.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended): A vector comprising a polynucleotide [DNA-sequence] of claim 24 in operative association with an expression control sequence therefore.

36. (Currently amended): A vector comprising a polynucleotide [DNA-sequence] of claim 33 in operative association with an expression control sequence therefore.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented): A host cell transformed with a vector of claim 35.

39. (Previously presented): A host cell transformed with a vector of claim 36.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently amended): An isolated polynucleotide [DNA-sequence] selected from the group consisting of ATCC deposits 40345 and 40342.

42. (Currently amended): A method for producing a [~~BMP~~] bone morphogenetic protein-2 protein, said method comprising the steps of:

a) culturing a host cell transformed with a polynucleotide [~~DNA-~~
~~sequence~~] of claim 33, and

b) recovering said [~~BMP~~] bone morphogenetic protein-2 protein.

43-49. (Cancelled)